



John Beaver Mertie, Jr.

1888–1980

John B. Mertie, Jr., began his 71-year association with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as a field assistant in 1908 before becoming a full-time USGS geologist in 1911. Mertie conducted regional and economic geology investigations across a wide variety of Alaskan geological settings and mineral deposits. Mertie was a member of the 1924 field program that initiated investigations in what is now National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR). As WWII loomed, Mertie focused on field investigations of strategic and critical metals. His memorable achievements included a 1976 publication on the Goodnews Bay platinum district, based on field work conducted when he was 78 to 81 years old. The platinum mineral mertieite was named in his honor by the USGS.

Photo credit: Geological Society of America.